(SRI T. CHANNIAH.)

102,164. The Director of Public Health has recommended the conversion of the existing dispensaries at Kunigal and Huliyurdurga into Health Units. The present expenditure on these two health units is Rs. 18,000; and the additional cost will be about Rs. 50,000 under recurring and non-recurring charges. The proposals of the Director of Public Health are being examined and Government would see that the scheme is implemented to the extent possible.

SRI N. HUCHMASTHY GOWDA.—I seek leave to withdraw the cut motion, Sir.

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

SRI K. LAKKAPPA (Channarayapatna).—Sir, I move . . . .

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Time is over. The question is:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 42,29,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1955, in respect of 'Public Health'."

The motion was adopted.

DEMAND No. 28—MISCELLANEOUS DEPARTMENTS.

47. Miscellaneous Departments.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Motion moved:

"That a sum not exceeding Rs. 12,33,000 be granted to the Government to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March 1955, in respect of 'Miscellaneous Departments'."

Trade Agent's Office, London.

SRI R. ANANTARAMAN (Chamarajapet).—Sir, I beg to move:

"That the demand under the head '47. Miscellaneous Departments' for Rs. 12,33,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 (to raise a discussion about the working of Trade Agent's Office in London)."

Sir, this is a department about which we know very little except the amount of salaries paid to the several officers as could be seen from the Budget. We are not at all aware of the other details of this office. I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide us with some information about the working of this office so that we may seek to know more through interpellations. As the Minister for Industries was in London very recently and has inspected this office, I hope he will be able to furnish the House about the business that is transacted by this office, whether Government or private, etc. Sir, we can see from the Budget that the Trade Agent is paid Rs. 4,900 and £ 650 Overseas Allowance and House Rent Allowance of £ 382-4-0, whereas the Deputy Trade Agent is paid Rs. 10,175. Really it is surprising. A lower officer is paid more than his superior. The Secretary is paid Rs. 4,641, a senior typist Rs. 4,641 and so on. Sir, I do not know why they are paid so heavily. Is there any necessity for a Secretary there? I learn that the work they do is some business in sandal oil and sandal soap and some work of the Stores Purchase Committee. For this small work, I do not know why there should be such a big staff so heavily paid. Sir, the messenger is paid Rs. 3,813. No doubt certain amount of expenditure is met by the Sandal Oil Factory and the Stores Purchase Committee. I wish to know whether there is any necessity for a Secretary and three typists. In these days, when we are thinking of retrenchment in Bangalore, it is ununderstandable that we are having such a heavy staff at London. I very much doubt whether there is enough work for them. I also wish to know the amount of business they have done with regard to sandal oil for the last three years. I learn that they undertake some private business also and I wish to know how much the total amount of commission that they might have received has come to.

Some of our boys are studying in London in various fields. I do not know whether any help is given to them by this Trade Agent. Of course, one of my friends who was studying in London informed me that when he was short of funds he approached the Trade Agent and he was able to contact our Government and get him some financial aid.

Another thing is, they have provided for contingency a sum of Rs. 29,656. I do not know why such a huge some is given to him as contingency. Is the Trade Agent giving any parties? Does this amount of Rs. 29,656 include any sumptuary allowance? It is better that the Minister gives us some more information in this behalf. With these few words I move my cut motion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Cut motion moved:

"That the amount be reduced by Rs. 100."

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Home and Industries).—Sir, the Hon'ble Member wanted to know the details of the working of the Trade Agent's Office with comparative figures for the last four years. I will be very glad to place these figures in his hands; I have no objection, if he raises a question or I am even prepared to make a short statement with regard to that, so far as the figures are concerned. But one point I am glad to mention is that, so far as the establishment is concerned, the annual establishment charges come to about Rs. 87,000. Out of this amount, three-fifth is met by the Sandal Oil Factory as it is meant exclusively, more or less, in the interest of the Sandal Oil Factory; about Rs. 4,500 is met by the Stores Purchase Committee, and the balance is debited to the general revenues, namely, Rs. 30,800.

My friend wanted to know the duties of the Trade Agent and also with regard to establishment. I may tell him that especially this office is, I may say without fear of any contradiction, not over-staffed. In fact it is understaffed.

With regard to the Deputy Trade Agent, he wanted to know why he is paid more than the Trade Agent. We should not forget that the Deputy Trade Agent is subjected to income-tax in the United Kingdom as if he is a citizen of the United Kingdom. Moreover since our Trade Agent has only recently gone there, in order to make him acquainted with the work and to make him understand what exactly is the kind of work he has to do in London, Government have recently extended the period of the term of the Deputy Trade Agent by about six months. It was absolutely essential.

A MEMBER.—Who is the person?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sri R. K. Murthy. He is the gentleman who has been probably in that office ever since its inception in 1928-29. He has been really doing very useful service in getting contacts and canvassing business for the Government.

With regard to steno-typists, they do steno-typing work. They attend to other kinds of work like clerical work in the office, though they are styled as stenographers. They are essential in a place like London where they have to contact so many business people.

With regard to the work of this Office, my friend wanted to know what is the nature of the work. There are two kinds of work he is entrusted to carry on. Primarily his office is meant to secure orders for the sale of sandal oil. Formerly we had the monopoly more or less. Now there are others who are competing with us, sometimes I may say in colourful names. There are two firms who are seriously competing with our sandal wood oil. It has been very necessary that these officers should have contacts with our principals in other countries, like France and Switzerland. We have got one Agent in the United States, Messrs. Bush and Company, to whom we send our sandal wood oil direct where the oil is distilled. The Trade Agent is expected to have close contact with America also for the sale of sandal wood oil. Further, taking advantage of this office in London the Stores Purchase Committee are making use of his good offices in having contact with big firms whenever orders are to be placed and in getting quotations, inviting tenders

(SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.)

and these kind of things. The opinion of the Stores Purchase Committee is that the Trade Agent's Office in London has been doing very useful work there in securing big orders to the best advantage of the State.

Further, my friend wanted to know whether they have done any good business. I have already repeated it on the floor of this House. After securing a lumpsum order for £ 30,000 the Trade Agent has been able to secure a subsequent order for £ 30,000. That order itself is sufficient to give us work for one year's full production. And further due to the good offices and sympathy of the High Commissioner we want to encourage the sale of some of our cottage industries goods. The High Commissioner has been good enough to promise us one of the two halls in his office so that Mysore goods may also be very well exhibited. That should be taken to say that as far as possible, our goods are advertised for trade in foreign countries.

With regard to the sumptuary allowance, originally the Trade Agent had a small allowance. In a country like England or in any continental country, many a good business is secured round a dinner table. I feel, and I have come to the realisation that it is necessary to give him some sumptuary allowance so that he may take advantage of meeting as many people as possible and try to secure good business for us. That is a lacuna which requires to be now looked into. Originally there was an allowance. I feel there is need for it now.

I am satisfied that on the whole the working of this office has been quite satisfactory. There is no over-staff. With these few words I am sure my friend Sri Anantaraman will be kind enough to withdraw his cut motion.

(Sri R. Anantaraman interrupted.)

Sri R. K. PRASAD (Bangarpet).—Is it a fact that there is a lot of discontent among businessmen in England and America on account of frequent changes of Trade Agent ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—How can I say that ?

Sri R. K. PRASAD.—You have first toured these parts. Did any of them say that on account of frequent changes they have not been able to have frequent contacts ?

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—That fact has not prominently come to my notice.

Sri R. ANANTARAMAN.—I seek leave of the House to withdraw the cut motion.

The cut motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Sri Palaniyappan is not here. Which of the next five cut motions you would like to move, Sri Srinivasa Iyengar ?

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR (T.-Narasipur).—Only one or two cut motions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER.—Only one. Let that be over.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Cut motion No. 92

Policy adopted in fixing Cash Contributions to Temples.

Sri S. SRINIVASA IYENGAR.—Sir, I beg to move :

> "That the demand under the head '47. Miscellaneous Departments' for Rs. 12,33,000 be reduced by Rs. 100 (in order to raise a debate on the policy adopted for fixing cash contributions to the temples in the State)."

Sir, according to the estimates of 1954-55, as contained in page 123, there is a provision of Rs. 1,42,000 only towards the payment of contributions to temples which number : major 223 and minor 1,356. I would like to know whether it is possible to run these institutions numbering about 1,600 with a contribution of the order of Rs. 1,42,000 only. There are certain temples wherein the temple servants are paid at the rate of 4 annas a month. There are certain temples where the salary comes to a maximum of Rs. 8. There are some other temples receiving a grant of Rs. 5,040 a month. So, is it worthwhile having these temples ? Suppose we want these places of worship to be run, then is it not